

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 were presented for examination. The Examiner has allowed claims 16-21, and indicated allowable subject matter in claims 6-8 and 13-15. Claims 6-8 and 13-15 were objected to as depending upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1-5, 9-12 and 22-23 were rejected.

Applicants hereby amend independent claims 1 and 9 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 6 and 13, respectively. Claims 6 and 13 have been canceled. Independent claim 22 has also been amended to incorporate allowable subject matter. Applicants also amend claims 7 and 14 to depend from independent claims 1 and 9, respectively. No new matter has been introduced. Thus, claims 1-5, 7-12, and 14-23 are currently pending in this application, of which claims 1, 9, 16, and 22 are independent. Applicants submit that claims 1-5, 7-12, and 14-23 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above and arguments, Applicants contend that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration, withdrawal of all grounds of rejection, and allowance of all of the pending claims.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorney would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact the Applicants' attorney at the telephone number identified below.

Respectfully submitted,

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